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1989/06/04

TOP SECRET/EXDIS [] b1, a4

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EXCISE

SECRETARY'S MORNING SUMMARY FOR JUNE 4, 1989

1. CHINA: TROOPS OPEN FIRE

CASUALTY FIGURES REMAIN UNCERTAIN AND UNCONFIRMED, BUT REPORTS OF DEATHS FROM THE MILITARY ASSAULT ON TIANANMEN SQUARE RANGE FROM 180 TO 500; THOUSANDS MORE HAVE BEEN INJURED. TROOPS BACKED BY TANKS AND ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS BATTLED CROWDS OF CIVILIANS FOR SEVEN HOURS BEFORE REACHING THE SQUARE SHORTLY BEFORE DAWN TODAY BEIJING TIME. STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS BEGAN TO LEAVE TIANANMEN BEFORE THE TROOPS MOVED IN; TROOPS OPENED FIRE ON THOSE WHO REMAINED. TWO WEEKS AFTER MARTIAL LAW WAS DECLARED, THE GOVERNMENT AGAIN CONTROLS THE SYMBOLIC CENTER OF THE COUNTRY.

YESTERDAY ALL MAJOR MEDIA IN BEIJING FEATURED STRONG WARNINGS NOT TO INTERFERE WITH MARTIAL LAW AUTHORITIES AND ADMONISHED RESIDENTS TO STAY OFF THE STREET AND AWAY FROM TIANANMEN. THIS WAS THE STRONGEST WARNING SINCE MARTIAL LAW WAS DECLARED ON MAY 20, BUT THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE CHOSE TO IGNORE IT. TIPPED THAT THE MILITARY WOULD AGAIN ATTEMPT TO REACH THE SQUARE, RESIDENTS MASSED TO CONFRONT THE TROOPS AS THEY HAD SEVERAL TIMES PREVIOUSLY. THIS TIME THE TROOPS BRANDISHED WEAPONS, AND IN MINOR CLASHES YESTERDAY EVENING THEY FIRED TEARGAS AND USED TRUNCHEONS TO BATTLE DEMONSTRATORS. THESE INCIDENTS MAY HAVE BEEN INTENDED AS A FINAL WARNING BEFORE MOVING IN EARNEST.

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IS/FPC/CDR *MMZ* Date: *8/30/93*

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b1, a4

DURING PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS TROOPS PRESUMABLY WERE UNDER ORDERS NOT TO USE FORCE; []

[] SUCH WAS NOT THE CASE THIS TIME. []

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b1, a4

[] SHOOTING BEGAN SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

PERHAPS BELIEVING THAT THE ARMY WOULD BACK DOWN IN THE FACE OF CONCERTED RESISTANCE, THOUSANDS OF CIVILIANS STOOD THEIR GROUND OR SWARMED AROUND MILITARY VEHICLES. APCs WERE SET ON FIRE, AND DEMONSTRATORS BESEIGED TROOPS WITH ROCKS, BOTTLES, AND MOLOTOV COCKTAILS. PRECISELY WHO ORDERED THE TROOPS TO MOVE IS UNKNOWN. PRESS REPORTS STATE THAT A MEMO WAS CIRCULATED AMONG OFFICIALS ON SATURDAY QUOTING DENG XIAOPING AS SAYING THAT THE STUDENTS MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE SQUARE. BUT NEITHER DENG NOR ANY OTHER LEADER HAS YET MADE A PUBLIC STATEMENT ABOUT THE VIOLENCE IN THE CAPITAL.

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